

2001

State of the Environment Report

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is pleased to present the State of the Environment report for the year 2001. This report provides an overview of current environmental conditions in Idaho and discusses environmental data collected throughout the State. This information on the environment can be used in subsequent investigations as “indicators” of the health of the environment. This report will be revisited and updated regularly to display trends and help prioritize activities.

Indicators of Environmental Conditions and Trends Used In This Report

- ✦ Air Quality
- ✦ Drinking Water Quality
- ✦ Ground Water Quality
- ✦ Surface Water Quality
- ✦ Areas of Waste Contamination

There are six major river basins in Idaho: Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Bear River. “Basins” are essentially a larger grouping of “watersheds”— areas that contain a particular drainage. In this report, the State is divided into five basins. For presentation of information, the Upper Snake and Bear River Basins are combined. Typically, watersheds and the larger basins are established from ridgeline-to-ridgeline boundaries of an area, from which water flows into large streams or rivers.

The five resulting basins correspond with Idaho’s Air Quality Control Regions. The Air Quality Control Regions contain “airsheds” that are similar in concept to watersheds. The air in an airshed flows in one geographical area bounded by mountains, prevailing winds, and upper atmosphere circulation, so that the air mass is mostly confined to a specific and definable geographic area. Selected airsheds are discussed in this report. The next section presents an overview of statewide conditions.

DEQ

Our Mission

To preserve the quality of Idaho’s air, land, and water for use and enjoyment today and in the future.

As always, your input is a valuable and needed resource. Please let us know how you think we are doing. Contact DEQ to express your opinion or visit our website to learn more about Idaho’s environment, DEQ, or the programs discussed in this report.

Department of
Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502
www2.state.id.us/deq

Boise
Regional Office
(208) 373-0550

Coeur d’Alene
Regional Office
(208) 769-1422

Idaho Falls
Regional Office
(208) 528-2650

Lewiston
Regional Office
(208) 799-4370

Pocatello
Regional Office
(208) 236-6160

Twin Falls
Regional Office
(208) 736-2190

Contents

Overview of the State	3
Monitoring Our Environment	3
Panhandle	7
Clearwater	9
Salmon.....	11
Southwest	13
Upper Snake and Bear River	15
List of References	16

Costs associated with this publication are available from the Department of Environmental Quality.
DEQ-2001, 06/01, Cost per unit: \$1.22.

Printed on Recycled Paper.

Idaho Land Ownership

